

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

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R 100221Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3719

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPT: PASS AEC FOR FRIEDMAN FROM HELFRICH

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN

SUBJ: URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR KECO

1. AEC SCIREP HELFRICH MET WITH OFFICIALS OF KOREA ELECTRIC COMPANY (KECO) ON 9 MAY TO REVIEW STATUS OF THEIR NUCLEAR POWER PLANS AND URANIUM ENRICHING SERVICES REQUIREMENTS. KECO NOW PLANS BRING ONE NUCLEAR PLANT PER YEAR ON LINE BEGINNING IN 1979. WHILE UNITS 3 AND 4 CURRENTLY PLANNED TO BE CANDU TYPE, KECO MANAGEMENT HAS JUST AUTHORIZED KECO STAFF TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATION OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR UNITS 5 AND 6, IN ANTICIPATION OF FACT THEY MIGHT BE LWRS. THESE WILL BE 800 MWE UNITS REQUIRING FIRST ENRICHING SERVICES IN LATE 1980 AND 9181 RESPECTIVELY. IN VIEW OF TIME ELEMENT SCIREP URGED KECO TO SUBMIT REQUEST TO AEC AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO PROVIDE EMBASSY SEOUL WITH COPY SO THAT PERTINENT DETAILS COULD BE TELEXED.

2. RE PLUTONIUM RECYCLE OPTION UNDER ENRICHING SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR KO-RI UNITS 1 AND 2.

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SCIREP UNDERSTANDS THERE HAS BEEN EXCHANGE OF

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN AEC AND KECO BUT UNAWARE OF DETAILS. THEREFORE REQUEST ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR RESPONSE TO KECO QUESTIONS:

(A) WHAT IS DEADLINE FOR ADVISING AEC OF THEIR DECISION RE PU RECYCLE; (B) WHEN MUST DETAILED PU RECYCLE SCHEDULE BE FIRMED-UP; AND (C) CAN PU GENERATED IN UNIT 1 BE USED IN UNIT 2. REASON FOR LATTER QUESTION IS THAT KECO IS CONCERNED THAT PU RECYCLE MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE IN UNIT 1 AND THEREFORE WOULD LIKE STORE MATERIAL AND USE IT IN UNIT.

2. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE SINCE TOTAL REDUCTION IN SEPARATIVE WORK DELIVERED UNDER BOTH CONTRACTS SHOULD BE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME WHETHER PU IS RECYCLED IN ONE OR BOTH UNITS.

3. KECO ALSO STATED THEY NEED TO CORRECT AMOUNT OF SEPARATIVE WORK SPECIFIED FOR FIRST CORE IN CONTRACT FOR KO-RI 2. SCIREP ADVISED KECO THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THIS AMOUNT COULD NOT BE CHANGED ONCE IT HAD BEEN FIRMED-UP. HOWEVER, KECO OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT IN VIEW OF AEC REQUIREMENT THAT THIS CONTRACT BE SIGNED BY DECEMBER 31, 1973, THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE OBTAIN CORE DESIGN PARAMETERS FROM PROSPECTIVE REACTOR SUPPLIER (WESTINGHOUSE). THEREFORE, THEY HAD USED DESIGN PARAMETERS FROM UNI 1. IT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY DEVELOPED THAT ENRICHMENT LEVEL, AND HENCE SEPARATIVE WORK REQUIREMENTS, WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER FOR UNIT 2. HENCE THEY WOULD LIKE REDUCE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN CONTRACT. PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE ARE ANY STEPS WHICH CAN BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE SOME RELIEF FOR KECO IN THIS CASE.

4. KECO OFFICIALS ALSO STATED THAT KO-RI 1 SCHEDULE HAS BEEN DELAYED ABOUT SIX MONTHS AND INQUIRED AS TO POSSIBILITY OF DEFERRING DELIVERY OF ENRICHED MATERIAL FOR CORRESPONDING PERIOD THEREBY SAVING INTEREST CHARGES. SCIREP ADVISED THAT AEC POLICY DID NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PERMIT SUCH DEFERMENT. KECO OFFICIALS RELUCTANTLY AGREED THIS WAS THEIR INTERPRETATION ALSO AND DID NOT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER.
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